

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7923

INFO HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 1742

SAIPAN FOR STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TV

SUBJECT: US - TUVALU NEGOTIATIONS ON DISPUTED ISLANDS

1. TUVALU OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED THE LAST FEW DAYS GAVE US THE FOLLOWING GLIMPSE INTO THE TUVALU STRATEGY FOR THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DISPUTED ISLANDS.

2. TUVALU REGARDS THE ENTIRE QUESTION AS APETTY SQUABBLE BETWEEN TWO WHITE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENTS WHICH DOES NOT CONCERN TUVALU. THE DECLARATION OF TUVALU'S INDEPENDENCE CAN EITHER BE PREVENTED BY THE US IN THE NAME OF ITS CLAIM TO THE DISPUTED ISLANDS OR BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE AND THUS ESTABLISH THE LEGAL FOUNDATION OF AN UNDISPUTED TUVALU SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ENTIRE GROUP OF THE ISLANDS INVOLVED. FOLLOWING THIS LOGIC ATHE TUVALU LEADERS RECKON THAT THE US IS NOT IN A POSITION TO DEMAND CONCESSIONS FROM TUVALU IN RETURN FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF THE US CLAIMS TO THE FOUR ISLANDS.

3. THIS IS NOT TO SAY HOWEVER THAT TUVALU IS NOT INTERESTED
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IN NEGOTIATING THE CONCESSIONS THE US WANTS TO EXTRACT FROM IT BUT THE QUO FOR THE PROPOSED QUID WILL HAVE TO BE SOMETHING MORE MEANINGFUL TO TUVALU THAN THE US RECOGNITION OF TUVALU'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE EISPUTED ISLANDS. IT SEEMS THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER HAS FAIRLY CLEAR IDEAS ABOUT WHAT HE SHOULD BE ASKING FROM THE AMERICANS IN RETURN FOR WHAT THEY WANT FROM THE TUVALIANS IN TERMS OF ACCESS TO FISHINE ETC. ACCORING

TO THIS APPROACH WHAT THE US IS PROPOSING IS SOMETHING TO BE
NEGOTIATED AFTER INDEPENDENCE IN A FRIENDLY GIVE AND TAKE.

4. OUR SOURCES DOUBT THAT LAUTI WILL BE ANYWHERE NEAR AS BLUNT
AS THE FOREGOING IMPLIES. ON THE CONTRARY HE WILL BE DELPHIC
IN HIS STATEMENTS, WILL AVOID DIRCT CHALLENGES AND WILL LOOK
TO MORE TANGIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN A YEAR OR SO FROM INDE-
PENDENCE. HE WILL BE GUIDED BY THE BELIEF THAT HIS BARGAINING
POSITION ALLOWS HIM TO BE COOL AND PATIENT.
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Message Attributes

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